

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for locating a video file, the method comprising:
identifying a key image;
identifying a plurality of video files; and
searching the plurality of video files for a match with the key image using an image comparison technology.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the key image is contained in a still image file.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying a key image comprises identifying at least one of an identity of the still image file and a location of the still image file.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the key image was not originally extracted from any of the plurality of video files.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein searching the plurality of video files comprises searching at least one multi-mode image file that comprises low-resolution images and at least one high-resolution image.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a plurality of video files comprises identifying at least one of an identity of the plurality of video files and a location of a plurality of video files.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein searching comprises executing a pattern matching algorithm.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein searching comprises executing at least one of a normalization algorithm, a correlation algorithm, a geometric pattern matching algorithm, and a least squares fit algorithm.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying a located video file that is a match for the key image to a user.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
identifying at least one timestamp within a video file that indicates a match.

11. A system for locating a video file, the system comprising:
means for identifying a key image;
means for identifying video files to be searched; and
means for automatically comparing the key image to frames of the video files to search for a video file that comprises image content contained in the key image.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the means for identifying video files comprise means for identifying at least one multi-mode image file that comprises low-resolution images and at least one high-resolution image.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the means for automatically comparing comprise a pattern-matching algorithm.

14. The system of claim 11, further comprising:
means for identifying a video file that was determined to contain image content that is contained within the key image.

15. A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system comprising:
logic configured to identify a key image;
logic configured to identify video files to be searched; and
logic configured to compare image content of the key image with content of frames of the video files to locate a video file that contains image content of the key image.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the logic configured to compare comprises at least one of a normalization algorithm, a correlation algorithm, a geometric pattern matching algorithm, and a least squares fit algorithm.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the logic configured to compare is configured to compare the key image to at least one high-resolution image of the multi-mode image file.

18. The system of claim 15, further comprising:
logic configured to identify a located video file to a user.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
logic configured to identify at least one timestamp within the located video file, the at least one timestamp indicating a frame within the video file that matches the key image.

20. A video search manager stored on a computer-readable medium and configured for execution by a user computing device, the manager comprising:

logic configured to identify an image that is to be used as a key image in a search for a stored video file;

logic configured to identify a group of stored video files to be searched; and

logic configured to search the group of stored video files to identify at least one video file that contains image content contained within the key image.

21. The manager of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to identify an image comprises logic configured to receive a user's selection of an image being shown to the user.

22. The manager of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to identify a group of video files comprises logic configured to receive a user's selection of the group of video files.

23. The manager of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to receive a user's selection of the group of video files comprises logic configured to receive the user's selection of a directory containing a plurality of video files.

24. The manager of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to identify a group of video files comprises logic configured to receive a user's selection of at least one multi-mode image file that contains both low-resolution images and at least one high-resolution image.

25. The manager of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to search comprises logic to identify at least one video frame of at least one video file that matches the key image.

26. The manager of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to search comprises logic to only search high-resolution images embedded within the stored video files to identify at least one high-resolution image that matches the key image.

27. The manager of claim 20, wherein the logic configured to search comprises logic to identify a feature contained within the key image that is also contained in at least one video frame of at least one video file.